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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/475,447	12/30/1999	DAVID JOHNSTON LYNCH	RCA89.894	6336
24498	7590	07/25/2005	EXAMINER	
THOMSON LICENSING INC. PATENT OPERATIONS PO BOX 5312 PRINCETON, NJ 08543-5312			CHUNG, JASON J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2617	

DATE MAILED: 07/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/475,447	Applicant(s) LYNCH, DAVID JOHNSTON	
	Examiner Jason J. Chung	Art Unit 2617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11, 13-20 and 22-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11, 13-20 and 22-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/23/05 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 11, 13-20-22-26 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 11, 13-20, 22-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Collings (US Patent # 5,828,402) in view of Casement (US Patent # 5,969,748).

Regarding claim 11, Collings discloses the user sets user preferences (column 16, lines 19-28). Collings discloses the user can invoke a main menu 80 (figure 5A) by entering a PIN (column 16, lines 50-67). Collings discloses the blocking option 80 allows a user to enable,

Art Unit: 2617

temporarily disable, or disable completely a television signal (column 17, lines 1-7). Collings discloses the user sets thresholds for television programming (column 17, lines 33-48), which meets the limitation on at least one viewer profile establishing a set of limits for blocking images outside the limits from view.

Collings discloses the master option of menu 90 can be used to disable or temporarily disable the operation of all blocking features of apparatus 20 and a user may disable one or more features that include ratings, channel, viewing times, daily allowance (column 17, lines 20-32), which meets the limitation on at least one limit selected from the group comprising: program ratings, spending, channel, view time limits, time of day limits, image content ratings.

Collings discloses the master option of menu 90 is used to disable or temporarily disable (override) the operation of all blocking features of apparatus 20 and a user may disable one or more features that include ratings, channel, viewing times, daily allowance (column 17, lines 20-32; figure 5B), which meets the limitation on at least one override list including at least one override instruction applicable to the at least one viewer profile for overriding at least one of the limits.

Collings discloses the menu is used to enable (most restrictive) or disable all of the features (column 17, lines 8-19; figure 5B); thus the user can have blocking criteria/criterion saved and use the master option to disable blocking (least restrictive) or use the master option to enable blocking (most restrictive), which meets the limitation on a conflict resolver resolving conflicts between overrides and the conflict resolver is switchable between a most restrictive and least restrictive mode and the limitation on first and second conflict resolution modes (claim 22). Additionally, Collings discloses the user can invoke a main menu 80 by pressing function key 72

Art Unit: 2617

on the remote control 71 (column 16, lines 50-60). Collings discloses the user can use menu 90 to individually enable or disable features of apparatus 20 (column 17, lines 8-19; figure 5B), which meets the limitation on a conflict resolver for resolving conflicts between the override instructions when the set of limits are enabled.

Although Collings discloses overrides, Collings fails to disclose detecting the existence of a conflict and automatically resolving upon detecting the existence of a conflict. In analogous art, Casement discloses detecting the existence of a conflict and automatically resolving conflicts upon detecting the existence of a conflict (conflict with ratings and/or V-Chip: column 4, lines 25-42; column 5, lines 6-17) for the purpose of preventing a conflict of previously scheduled functions. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Collings to have detecting the existence of a conflict and automatically resolving upon detecting the existence of a conflict as taught by Casement for the purpose of preventing a conflict of previously scheduled functions.

Regarding claim 13, Colling discloses the user can use the main menu 80 (figure 5A) and press option 1 opens up the blocking menu (column 17, lines 1-32). Collings discloses pressing option 2 opens up a setup menu 100 and pressing option 1 on the setup menu (figure 5C) opens up a category threshold menu (figure 5D) (column 17, lines 33-57). Collings discloses the user can have blocking criteria saved in the memory 58 (column 17, lines 58-68). Collings discloses the master option can be used to disable all (least restrictive) of the blocking features of the apparatus (column 17, lines 20-32; figure 5B). Collings discloses the menu can be used to enable (most restrictive) or disable all of the features (column 17, lines 8-19; figure 5B); thus the user can have blocking criteria/criterion saved and use the master option to disable blocking

Art Unit: 2617

(least restrictive) or use the master option to enable blocking (most restrictive), which meets the limitation on a conflict resolver resolving conflicts between overrides and the conflict resolver is switchable between a most restrictive and least restrictive mode and the limitation on first and second conflict resolution modes (claim 22).

Regarding claim 14, Collings discloses the user is presented interfaces showing the status of the blocking (figures 5E-5I), which meets the limitation on means to display to a viewer the blocking status of at least one image.

Regarding claim 15, Collings discloses the video signals may be output from apparatus 20 or from a VCR and apparatus 20 can be built into the television but also may be a stand-alone unit (column 3, lines 17-30), which meets the limitation on the supervisor control system for producing an output signal includes at least one item selected from the group comprising: television receiver, cable box, VCR tuner.

Regarding claims 16-19, the limitations in claims 16-19 have been met in claims 11-15 rejections.

Regarding claims 20, 22, 23, the limitations in claims 20, 22, 23 have been met in claims 11, 13-15 rejections.

Regarding claim 24, the limitations in claim 24 have been met in claims 11-15 rejections.

Regarding claims 25-26, the limitations in claims 25-26 have been met in claims 11-15 rejections. Collings discloses the parent can block the television signal (column 2, line 66-column 3, line 30), which meets the additional limitation on parental control circuitry.

Conclusion


Art Unit: 2617

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason J. Chung whose telephone number is (571) 272-7292. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 7:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Kelley can be reached on (571) 272-7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JJC


VIVEK SRIVASTAVA
PRIMARY EXAMINER